

Application No. 10/081,564

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 of September 3, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Kindly replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] Thus, instead of focusing on the housing material, attempts have been made to supply an attachment to the housing such as a covering or sleeve. This preserves the durability of the original housing material, while adding a comfort factor. For instance, U.S. Patent No. 4,870,688 to Voroba, et al. discloses a soft, resilient covering which is affixed to the rigid bonding of the ear shell. No covering material or details on affixing the covering to the ear shell were disclosed. Another example, U.S. Patent No. 5,002,151 to Oliveira, et al., discloses a disposable sleeve made of a soft polyurethane retarded recovery foam attached to the ear piece by mating of screw threads on the sleeve and the ear piece. Unfortunately, [with] a sleeve concept would lack durability and require continual replacement. The sleeve creates a safety concern due to the possibility of this attachment to slip off from motion in the ear canal and possibly lodging in the ear canal. The inadequacy and quality of the disposable sleeves bond to the housing is a major concern.

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Kindly also replace paragraph **[0060]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] As can be seen from Table 2, not all urethane-acrylate compositions are capable of producing a desired Shore A hardness of about 55 or less. For example, urethane-acrylate compositions with no mono-functional urethane acrylate are too hard, as seen in composition #12 and #13 of Table 2. As seen in Table 2, urethane-acrylate compositions with tri-functional urethane-acrylate tend to yield a hard composition as seen in compositions # 11, #14, #15, #16 of Table 2. However, a urethane-acrylate composition containing a tri-functional urethane-acrylate can yield a softer composition, of about 55 or less, if sufficient mono-functional and reactive plasticizer is present in combination with the poly-functional urethane-acrylate, as seen in inventive composition #2 of Table 1.